

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : W. C. Sullivan

FROM : W. R. Wannall

SUBJECT: ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

- Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Evans

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: April 2, 1963

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Wannall

Classified by ~~SP-6/17/86~~

Declassify on: OADR 3/1/86

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

Morning papers carried information showing that the British in the Bahamas had seized 17 anti-Castro raiders. These were the men aboard the vessel "Violon III" concerning which SAC Grapp of Miami telephoned us last night. As set forth in Mr. Sizoo's memorandum to Mr. Sullivan 4-1-63 the

Mr. Yeagley telephoned this morning and was furnished the foregoing information. He was interested in knowing whether the "Violon III" had left for Norman Cay from Miami.

Our Liaison Agent contacted Coast Guard and received from that agency the following information:

The British picked up the vessel at 12:30 p.m. 4-1-63 and is due to turn it over to the U.S. Coast Guard at 5 p.m. 4-2-63 at a point approximately three and one half miles off Nassau. The owner of the vessel is _____ who for the past several years has been engaged in anti-Castro activities. The Coast Guard does not know from what port the "Violon III" departed for Norman Cay. Coast Guard headquarters could not state whether the vessel when turned over to the Captain of the Coast Guard ship off Nassau will be taken into custody or merely escorted to Miami. Lieutenant Commander Herbert J. Lynch, Executive Officer, Coast Guard Intelligence, from whom this information was secured, stated that if there is anything aboard the "Violon III" showing a violation of U.S. laws (such as arms) the vessel will probably be taken to Miami. If not, the Coast Guard Captain on the scene will probably attempt to maintain a surveillance on the ship until it reaches a U.S. port. The Coast Guard did not know whether the "Violon III" departed for Norman Cay from Miami. At 2:20 p.m. today the information as provided by Commander Lynch was telephonically furnished to Mr. Yeagley and a confirming letter is being prepared.

Mr. Yeagley said that Assistant Attorney General Norbert A. Schlei, Office of Legal Counsel, received a call from the White House

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Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan
Re: ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

this morning asking what legal action might be taken against this vessel. Mr. Yeagley explained that if the ship is of U.S. registry the Coast Guard could board it to check papers and safety equipment. If, during the boarding, arms are discovered and the ship is of U.S. origin and had sailed from a U.S. port the Coast Guard Captain on the spot could make up his mind whether the ship could be taken under control. He can do this if he has reasonable grounds for suspecting a violation of U.S. laws has occurred. However, according to Mr. Yeagley, Mr. Ralph A. Dungan of the White House has stated that the Coast Guard should not board the vessel. Following this a proposal has been made (source of which is unknown to Yeagley) that the Coast Guard approach the "Violon III" and signal the vessel to follow the Coast Guard cutter. If it obeys the signal, a second Coast Guard vessel will board the "Violon III" after it enters U.S. waters. If, however, the "Violon III" refuses to follow the Coast Guard cutter into a U.S. port the Captain of the cutter will have to make a decision on the spot as to what he should do.

Mr. Yeagley also advised that Deputy Commissioner Mario Roto of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) had just advised him that INS has received instructions to issue no more notices to Cuban refugees to prevent their departure from the United States.

From the above it would appear that although a strong plan of action was worked out at the Miami conference last Saturday looking toward the discouragement of future raids on Cuba, the Administration seems to be backing away from any action which might be unacceptable to the Cuban refugees. There have been several press reports to the effect that the refugees have been most dissatisfied with the restrictions that have been put on them in the past few days.

ACTION:

For information and record purposes. The confirming letter to Mr. Yeagley mentioned hereinbefore is being handled separately.

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Handled
by HCF
Oct 4/5/63

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